

The program will be produced during two performances. The first performance will be at Oahu's historic Hawaii Theatre on November 14, and the second at Maui Arts and Cultural Center on November 16. In addition to being taped, the students will be participating in assemblies at eight schools on three islands. Approximately 100 young people are chosen each year to appear on "From the Top," so to have Hawaii's youth be selected is truly an honor.

The students' hard work and devotion to music has allowed them to excel in the performing arts. However, they would not have been able to succeed without the support of their family, friends, and instructors. Instructors play an essential role in guiding a student, and they need to be commended for their hard work and dedication to teaching as well.●

CONGRATULATING MISS LESLIE OSBORN

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I congratulate Leslie K. Osborn for earning Hawaii's first Silver Award in Venturing, the highest award in the Venturing program of the Boy Scouts of America. Leslie will be honored with this award at the annual Aloha Council Eagle Scout Banquet in April of 2008.

Venturing was created by the Boy Scouts of America in 1998 to provide positive experiences for young men and women and the tools needed to become responsible and caring adults.

Involvement in the Boy Scouts of America is a long-standing tradition in the Osborn family. Both Leslie's older brother, Bobby, and her younger sister, Heather, are active in the program. Parents, LTC John and Patricia Osborn, teach their children strong family values and respect for God and country. Leslie is a strong young woman who is motivated by the desire to prove that she has the same capabilities as boys. She spends much of her time building her strength in wilderness survival through such activities as camping, climbing, and hiking.

Leslie is also an exceptional student. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA at Kalaheo High School while enjoying hobbies such as dancing jazz and ballet. She is very involved in community services, both on her own time through her work at the Marine Corps commissary and through her activities in the Boy Scouts program. She has participated in numerous community outreach programs, including the annual Toys for Tots program as well as beach cleanups. She plans to attend college with the goal of becoming a veterinarian.

I look forward to hearing more about Leslie's successes as she continues to pursue her education and personal goals. Congratulations to her parents John and Patricia, who have raised their daughter to be a remarkable young lady. I wish Leslie and the rest of the Osborn family the very best in their future endeavors.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION B'NAI ABRAHAM

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am so pleased to congratulate Congregation B'nai Abraham in Beloit, WI, on their 100th anniversary. Congregation B'nai Abraham was established on November 7, 1907, and during the past 100 years it has thrived due to its outstanding leadership, a wonderful congregation, and a supportive community. I have many happy memories of my visits to this synagogue, particularly with the Beloit/Janesville BBO.

Generations of Wisconsinites have proudly called Congregation B'nai Abraham their synagogue. Under the leadership of Rabbi Ira Youdovin, new generations will continue to flourish. Today we celebrate this outstanding achievement and the people over the last 100 years who have built this wonderful congregation. Mazel Tov on this remarkable anniversary, and I wish Congregation B'nai Abraham the best for the next 100 years.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a group of 84 World War II veterans from the Acadiana region of Louisiana that is making its way to Washington this weekend. Here the veterans will visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials as well as Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The trip to the Nation's Capital this Saturday is being sponsored by a group in Lafayette, LA, called Louisiana HonorAir. The organization is honoring each surviving World War II Louisiana veteran by giving them a chance to see the memorials dedicated to their service. So far this year, there have been four trips to these Washington landmarks, and this weekend's trip will be the final one this year.

World War II was one of the greatest achievements in American history, and was also the deadliest conflict. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemen were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. The years 1941–1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today about 44,000 living WWII veterans, and every one of them has their own heroic tale of their experience in achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. Veterans in this group began their service in 1940 before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and served as late as 1957, between the Korean and Vietnam wars. They served in every branch of

the military—35 members in the Army; including a Buffalo soldier based in Italy; 27 in the Navy; 16 in the Army Air Corps, now the Air Force; five in the Marines; and one in the Coast Guard. They spent their service in the European and Pacific theaters as well as stateside and participated in many famous battles, including the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 83 men and one woman, all Louisiana heroes, that we welcome to Washington this weekend and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

FOUNDER'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize David Pigott, Tonya Denke, Russell Bruner, and Abbi Wells, all of whom received the Founder's Award for Outstanding Achievement from the Black Hills Workshop in Rapid City, SD. This is a prestigious award that reflects the recipients' hard work and dedication to achieving independent living. It also reflects the valuable role they have played in giving back to their local community. Also, I would like to recognize McKie Automotive group for receiving the Community Connection Award.

David Pigott is a hard-working stocker at the Ellsworth Air Force Base Commissary. He is an excellent member of their staff and has been recognized for his hard work by being named the Employee of the Month twice and Employee of the Year in 2006. Due to David's success at his job, he was chosen to travel to Washington, DC, to meet with Members of Congress to discuss employment for individuals with disabilities.

Tonya Denke is an enthusiastic food service attendant at Ellsworth Air Force Base's Bandit Inn. She is a dependable worker who is well liked by her fellow staff members and customers. Beyond her work, Tonya enjoys quilting, reading, playing the piano, and leads a very active lifestyle. Her accomplishments in the Special Olympics can be seen in her numerous gold and silver medals.

Russell Bruner stocks shelves and performs custodial work for the Ellsworth Air Force Base Commissary. He has been an excellent employee ever since he started the position in 2001 as is shown by his framed Employee of the Month award. Outside of work, Russell loves to read, especially about history, and to travel. His adventures have taken him to Seattle, Alaska, Florida and Washington, DC, just to name a few.

Abbi Wells works at the Black Hills Workshop on an assembly contract for Balanced Systems Incorporated of Sioux Falls. In 1994 she was an Easter Seals poster child. Abbi's brilliant smile and passion for life make her well liked by all the people she meets. In her spare time, she enjoys writing